

Issued as of 4:30 p.m.

February 28, 2012

Travel Alert issued for central and eastern North Dakota

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and North Dakota Highway Patrol (NDHP) have issued a **Travel Alert** for central and eastern North Dakota as a winter storm system moves into the state from the south. Motorists should be aware this system may create areas of heavy snow fall and blowing snow creating snow drifts, reduced visibility and icy conditions. Based on National Weather Service forecasts, motorists should be advised travel conditions may deteriorate rapidly, resulting in no travel advised, road closures, and blocked roads overnight due to the magnitude of the storm. Motorists are encouraged to complete travel plans early, monitor local weather forecasts, reduce speeds and drive according to the conditions.

Cities and surrounding areas in the Travel Alert include: Bismarck, Jamestown, Valley City, Grand Forks, Fargo and Wahpeton. A **Travel Alert** means motorists can still travel but may encounter areas of challenging winter weather driving conditions on roadways.

All travelers are encouraged to monitor road conditions, reduce traffic speeds as weather conditions occur and use caution while traveling. For road information, call 511 from any type of phone or go to the website: www.dot.nd.gov. If you become stranded in your vehicle, please call 911.

NDDOT releases information to the public about travel conditions throughout the state in three categories:

Travel Alert – Motorists can still travel but may encounter areas of challenging winter weather driving conditions on roadways. Motorists should allow extra time to reach their destination and be alert to conditions that may make travel difficult, change rapidly, or cause travel delays. A Travel Alert has the potential to change to a No Travel Advised if conditions deteriorate.

No Travel Advised – Motorists should not travel due to hazardous conditions which may make it unsafe to travel. Snow plows may be pulled from the roads during severe conditions. Motorists should take No Travel Advised seriously as those motorists who choose to travel at their own risk may become stranded and emergency responders may not be able to reach them safely. A No Travel Advised has the potential to change to a Road Closed or Blocked if conditions deteriorate.

Road Closed or Blocked – Motorists are not allowed to travel on a closed road due to life threatening conditions. The road may be impassible or blocked. Motorists who drive past a road closure device may be fined up to \$250.

###